

Board of Commissioners Public Comments from May 16 to present

Recorded Date	First and Last Name:	Are you an Ottawa County resident?	What is your city or township of residence?	Choose the upcoming meeting to which you would like to direct your comment:	Subject of your public comment:	Please type your public comment below. Comments are limited to 3000 characters.
5/19/2023 16:29	Maryellen Maiullo	Yes	Hudsonville City	Board of Commissioners Meeting	NO on Constitutional County Resolution	Vote No on Constitutional County Resolution. This will hurt our county not help. Hurts by making OC part of separatist movement. Hurts by inviting more lawsuits. Hurts by encouraging police to not enforce state & federal laws
5/20/2023 8:19	Luanne Helder	Yes	Zeeland Charter Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Sanctuary County Resolution	To the six Ol commissioners: I am very much opposed to this resolution. You are trying to force your will on us and ignore the opinions of many Ottawa county citizens.
5/20/2023 9:49	Bob Dicks	Yes	Spring Lake Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	To have free and fair voting	I ask the committee to abolish the use of machines in all elections. And to use paper ballots, hand counted by volunteers the way it used to be. This will save our county a lot of money, for these contracts that they have signed, to use the machines and the software that these companies use. I am sure that we could come up with enough volunteers, to do this without costing more money. It would save our county a lot of money. I don't know how much. You need to listen to the people! Thank you
5/20/2023 16:30	John and Maureen Bilsky	Yes	Park Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Resolutions for May 23,2023 Meeting--Vote Nay	Salutations, We are reaching out to all commissioners, but especially Chairman Moss who's phone message box is full and cannot take any more messages per our phone call today. May 20, 2023 to prayerfully reconsider your actions and the direction you are taking our county. Please vote Nay on the two resolutions as printed in the packet for the May 23, 2023 meeting. These resolutions do NOT reflect the values, beliefs nor the actions we and our children want as Ottawa County residents nor as Americans. Thank you
5/20/2023 20:19	Deb Ralya	Yes	Holland City	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Sanctuary county resolution	The resolution to be a sanctuary county is unneeded. I implore you to vote NO for the resolution.
5/20/2023 21:58	Raechel Haller	Yes	Holland Charter Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	No on constitutional county	I am opposed to the Resolution declaring Ottawa a constitutional county and encourage all commissioners to consider beyond their current political ambitions, and think how it would open such a Pandora's box for future leadership and decisions.
5/20/2023 22:20	Susan Steketee	Yes	Georgetown Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Resolution declaring Ottawa County a constitution.	This resolution is not in the best interest for the majority of Ottawa County residents now and in the future. This should not be decided by a few commissioners to support their religious beliefs. Like it or not Ottawa County is a diverse county made up of not just white supposedly "Christians" people!
5/20/2023 22:22	Carla	Yes	Allendale Charter Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Gun sanctuary	I am against making Ottawa County a sanctuary that ignores the laws of the state of Michigan. I believe in reasonable gun control and nothing in these enacted laws goes against a qualifying citizen owning a firearm, or from using it in a reasonable manner.
5/21/2023 7:09	Penny DeVries	Yes	Port Sheldon Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Vote No	I am opposed to the Resolution declaring Ottawa a constitutional county. Please vote NO on this resolution. As a resident of Ottawa County I do not support the proposed Resolution. Thank you.
5/21/2023 7:33	Annie Wassmann	Yes	Ferrysburg City	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County	I am opposed to the Resolution declaring Ottawa a constitutional county. Please vote no on this resolution.
5/21/2023 8:21	Tuesday de Longpre	Yes	Grand Haven City	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Oppose Resolution	I am opposed to the resolution declaring Ottawa County a Constitutional County. Please vote no on this resolution.
5/21/2023 8:26	John Leitner	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	constitutional county vote	There is no need for a constitutional county vote - I oppose this strongly. This is being forced through by a small group of people that only want complete control of our county. Ottawa Impact wants to govern this county according to their own rules only - it is a power grab and anti-democratic!
5/21/2023 8:36	Michele Svoboda	Yes	Grand Haven City	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Resolution to Declare Ottawa County a Constitution	I am opposed to the Resolution declaring Ottawa a constitutional county. Please vote no on this resolution.
5/21/2023 9:58	Shari Monroe	Yes	Hudsonville City	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County	"Please have read at 5/23 BOC Meeting" Using Middle Ages logic from "The Doctrine of Lesser Magistrates" to declare Ottawa County a "Constitutional County" shows very little integrity on the part of those supporting this. Finding archaic ways of simply getting what you want, all while disguising it as "protecting the rights guaranteed by the Constitution" is degrading to your role on this Commission. In case you are unaware, rights guaranteed by the Constitution ARE IN FACT already protected. So your premise on why this resolution should be passed is simply deceitful as a way to take a way the democracy you say you are protecting. You were elected to represent your entire district. ENTIRE- as in all. Not use the platform to enact your own personal dictatorship. As my Commissioner is the one behind this Middle Ages concept, I can only appeal in a public comment to the other Commissioners to vote no on this resolution.
5/21/2023 10:33	Charles Cizek	Yes	Port Sheldon Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County Resolution	As a county resident for over 40 years, I would urge all of you to vote "no" on this resolution. This is unnecessary and could result in additional lawsuits costing county resident taxpayer funds to be spent on legal fees and settlements. You have not surveyed the residents of this county to find out how they feel about this. You need to do that BEFORE any decisions are made. That's how responsible leaders govern.
5/21/2023 12:13	Michael Mooney	Yes	Park Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Becoming a constitutional county.	Why is this needed? There are already laws protecting citizens.As yet another concerned citizen of Ottawa County and Park Township, I am deeply concerned about what is happening within the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners. The first concern is the blatant "power grab" by the Ottawa Impact (OI) faction within the board to steer public health policies to OI's preferences verses the common good, limiting open public debate on issues, as well as cronyism in hiring of legal counsel to "represent and advise" our county. It is obvious that these people want what THEY want for our county Not what's in the public's interest and protection. We have a problem in society today which is "forget the common good", "it is my right to.....". When does societies well being trump my personal rights? What troubles me most though is the board considering approval of Ottawa County becoming a Second Amendment "Sanctuary" county. Chairman Joe Moss himself referenced this possibility last week, saying: "I think it's great that the board also be able to use their voice on important issues, whether it's (the) Second Amendment or parental rights or constitution or whatever the board might take up." "Sanctuary" counties are municipalities with a resolution stating gun control laws seen as unconstitutional won't be enforced. The gun laws in Ottawa County are seen as "unconstitutional" by who? Mr. Moss and his Ottawa Impact majority faction? Any one of us who watches the daily news sees the epidemic of gun violence. Mass shootings are common place in our society. It is an epidemic that sooner or later will reach every American. Gun violence is in homes, churches, malls, theaters, concerts, grocery stores, banks..... no where is there a "Sanctuary" protecting our parents, our children, our friends, our faith community, the public. According to a recent KFF (The Kaiser Family Foundation) poll 54% of Americans have experienced gun violence. You could be in the next 46% if you're not in the 54% already. It is estimated that 1 in 4 Americans overall have experienced gun violence (1 in 3 in Black Americans). If that's not an epidemic, what is? It just seems unconscionable and illogical for anyone to want to weaken gun law enforcement to become a second amendment "Sanctuary (see the deceptive terminology ?) County" . Are we going to let the minority endanger the ones we love? Or are we going to use our head and hearts to keep public policies that are good for just that..the public.
5/21/2023 12:32	Cheryl George	Yes	Ferrysburg City	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Resolution to become a Constitutional County	I am a resident of Ottawa County. I am against the resolution to make Ottawa County a "Constitutional County". Our Federal Government is governed by the Constitution. So the county is already, in effect, following the Constitution.This attempt to grab power and manipulate laws to their liking goes against the Constitution and is outside the scope of a County board. Enough.
5/21/2023 13:12	Tonya Johnson	Yes	Allendale Charter Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	The resolution	I am opposed to the Resolution declaring Ottawa a constitutional county. Please vote no on this resolution.
5/21/2023 13:17	Ginni Lampe	Yes	Spring Lake Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County Resolution Vote	I am strongly urging you (and by "you", I mean those commissioners who blindly follow Joe Moss) to vote "No" on the resolution to declare Ottawa County a Constitutional County. Of all the shady despicable stunts you have pulled in the past few months, this is the most dangerous by far. To think you know better than all the experts about how to safely live our lives could backfire spectacularly. People could be hurt or killed by your actions. Do you really want blood on your hands? Your convoluted view of Christianity and blind allegiance to Joe Moss is clouding your judgment and should NOT be the basis upon which you govern. If you can't separate church and state, at least take a step back and think more like Jesus than believing the fire and brimstone rhetoric that appears to be shaping your decisions. Please remember that Ottawa County was economically sound and rated best in the state in many categories before you came along. It's almost unimaginable how you have managed to make such a mess of things in such a short time. The fact that nationally recognized publications are writing about you should not be considered complementary, but rather a wake-up call about how your extremist views are damaging Ottawa County. Please stop trying to "rule" us and instead model the openness and transparency you promised in your campaign. I am not alone in sorely missing the responsible governance the prior Board practiced, and am truly alarmed at the direction in which the current Board is heading. I can only hope you will take my comments into consideration and vote No on the Constitutional County Resolution. If nothing else, my comments will now become part of the public record.
5/21/2023 13:51	Mary Baine	Yes	Tallmadge Charter Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Proposed "Constitutional County" Resolution	I am opposed to the Resolution declaring Ottawa a constitutional county. Please vote no on this resolution. At the very least, please table the issue pending further study.
5/21/2023 14:43	Sarah Tate	Yes	Georgetown Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	"Constitutional County" Resolution	As a resident of Ottawa County I am strongly against the resolution to declare our county a "Constitutional County." This resolution is unnecessary and goes against the values our country was built. I implore you to vote 'NO' on this resolution.
5/21/2023 14:48	Adam Tate	Yes	Georgetown Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County	I do not support the move to a "Constitutional County".
5/21/2023 15:02	Katherine Angus	Yes	Spring Lake Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County resolution	I am opposed to the Commission's Constitutional County resolution. I believe this type of resolution, rather than protecting individual liberties, instead seeks to give County Commissions the authority to decide which state or federal laws are "constitutional" and will be enforced at the county level. In effect, resolutions such as this seek to give the Board the authority to defy state or federal laws. I am deeply concerned that this Commission continues to seek power in scope and nature far beyond what the Board is meant to do, and that they continue to overlook the wishes of their actual constituents. We do not want Ottawa County to, in essence, separate itself from the laws of the state of Michigan and the United States of America. We do not want all this controversy. We just want the budget balanced, the roads and bridges in safe good condition, the local shoreline protected, etc.
5/21/2023 15:51	Rhonda Edgington	Yes	Holland City	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County	Dear Commissioners - I am strongly opposed to the proposed resolution to make Ottawa County a Constitutional County. You were not elected (by the small minority of voters in Ottawa County who voted in your election, I may remind you) to write laws, to decide which laws are constitutional, or to change laws you don't agree with. Not only is this not legal, it is not your job. You were elected to help run our county - make it safe and functional for all who live here. The duties you were elected to perform include helping provide health care for all residents, (not just the ones who look like you), mental health care for all residents (not just the ones who act like you), building roads, keeping our businesses strong and well resourced, keeping our taxes and tax ratings as ideal as they have been under your predecessors, and other such mundane and important jobs. You have not been handed a spiritual mandate to remake the county in your image. You do every resident of this county a disservice when you loose sight of this fact. The people of Ottawa County have spoken on this fact, and will continue to do so.
5/21/2023 17:19	Tamra Japenga	Yes	Grand Haven City	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional county	I am in total disagreement with your resolution to make Ottawa County a Constitutional County. This move will only bring harm and great risk to our county and the many residents that live here. I ask that you reconsider what you are moving forward on and what it will mean to our future.
5/21/2023 17:29	Jane MacPherson	Yes	Holland Charter Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Oppose making us a Constitutional County	I oppose the resolution planned to make Ottawa county a "constitutional county". This is a useless maneuver that will alienate MOST citizens of this county, and drive away future businesses who might be entertaining coming here, identifying us as a bunch of nuts. Did you know in Utah, a "constitutional county" there withdrew from the United Nations! That made the folks in that county look like a bunch of ignoramus's. Becoming a 2nd amendment sanctuary, also, is a dumb idea. It does nothing, especially since the Sheriff isn't going to ignore already passed state laws. I am sure you are hoping to replace the current Sheriff but good luck with that. You and the rest of the Ol candidates got in under the radar but the citizens of this county are rapidly losing respect for you as they realize how self righteous, paranoid and mean spirited you folks are.
5/21/2023 17:44	Karen Smith Hosner	Yes	Park Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional county vote	I am opposed to the Resolution declaring Ottawa a constitutional county. Please vote no on this resolution.
5/21/2023 18:39	Dan Beerens	Yes	Holland Charter Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County	Commissioners, I am unable to attend the meeting but I am writing to express my dissent toward any action taken to make Ottawa County a constitutional county. This is entirely unnecessary. I have no desire to see our county operate outside of current state and federal mandates. I support our Governor's recent efforts to pass gun safety legislation and have been supportive of our Health Department's efforts to keep us all safe during the pandemic. In my opinion, we need more seeking of a common good than efforts to operate outside the bounds of current common sense and existing legislative structure. Please cease and desist - you do not represent the best interests of those living in this county and your efforts are prideful, arrogant, and unChristlike. The interests of this county would be best served by your (Ottawa Impact's) immediate resignations.
5/21/2023 18:51	David G. Johnson	Yes	Allendale Charter Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County Resolution	I am opposed to the Resolution declaring Ottawa a constitutional county. Please vote no on this resolution.
5/21/2023 19:12	Jan Dyksterhouse	Yes	Georgetown Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional county	I vote no to changing to a Constitutional county you have tried to change everything. I can not go along with anything you have done
5/21/2023 19:23	Elaine Sams	No		Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County vote	Having grown up in Holland but now living in Arizona, I am watching the new commissioners meetings with interest. I disagree with many of the new commissioners' policies and do not agree with the constitutional county amendment. Ottawa county is part of the United States of America and is bound by it laws and rules. To say you don't have to follow the rules that you don't agree with may create confusion and cause Ottawa county to be regarded as an even more backwards county than it is now considered to be due to this commission. I wish I still lived in Holland so I could vote the new commissioners out of office when the recall vote is scheduled. Vote NO on the constitutional county vote.

5/21/2023 19:40	Scott Parrott	Yes	Holland Charter Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Commissioners- Constitutional County	<p>Dear Commissioners,</p> <p>I am unable to attend the 5/23 meeting and wanted to offer my sentiments with this absence in our democratic system. Bonnema is my elected representative. I oppose any effort to make Ottawa County a constitutional county. I fully support our health department and request they have the resources to keep our community safe. I believe Ottawa Impact is a disgrace. Ottawa Impact does not represent the values of the majority of our community, the best interest of our community, and its behavior has been an embarrassment since the first meeting. I request that our commissioners promote transparency, inclusion, and hope, and not the harsh path of division and exclusion that Ottawa Impact has taken us down. Please represent the broader good and not enact anything that restricts our health department or that enacts a constitutional county. Thank you for considering my voice.</p> <p>Sincerely, Scott Parrott</p> <p>P.S. Bonnema, if you would like to resign from the board at this time, I would be willing to serve out the rest of your term with a goal of representing everyone in our community with love and compassion, especially the most vulnerable in our community.</p>
5/21/2023 20:17	Katie Poynter	Yes	Holland City	Board of Commissioners Meeting	No to Constitutional County	<p>I am opposed to the Resolution declaring Ottawa a constitutional county. Please vote no on this resolution.</p> <p>The rights guaranteed us in the Constitution do not need reinforcement. Furthermore, this Commission has demonstrated time and time again that fully intend to rule as they see fit, even if that means forging transparency, democracy, and the balance of power in government. The last thing the Commission needs is the 'right and the duty to overrule any "unjust" law, rule or decision made by a higher authority.'</p>
5/21/2023 20:19	Mary Gadbois	Yes	Spring Lake Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	County commission	I am opposed to the Resolution declaring Ottawa a constitutional county. It is a power grab and doesn't reflect the positive values of our community.
5/21/2023 21:30	Michael Haas	Yes	Port Sheldon Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	2nd amendment sanctuary county	I congratulate the board for their decisions to date and am pleased to see they are representing the opinions of the majority of their constituents. I support making our county a 2nd amendment sanctuary county and I hope the board passes the resolution. We need to guard against the erosion of our constitutionally protected rights. Our founding fathers knew the importance of having the ability to defend ourselves against tyranny and believed in that privilege enough to include it in the constitution. History has shown what befalls nations that give up that right. Please pass this resolution.
5/21/2023 23:06	Heather Morgan	Yes	Georgetown Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional county vote	You must vote no on becoming a "constitutional" county. We see the masquerade and reject your deceitful ways. This is not in line with my beliefs and how I want my county to be ran. I am a fellow Christian and I am rebuking your power hungry, unloving character. May God deal with your sinful heart.
5/21/2023 23:19	Nancy Heineman	Yes	Port Sheldon Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Thank you	Thank you, Commissioners Curran and Bonnema, for apologizing to Justin Roebuck for the way the County's legal council treated him in court. I appreciate your integrity so much.
5/21/2023 23:28	Nancy Heineman	Yes	Port Sheldon Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County Resolution	I object to the constitutional county resolution and ask you all to vote against it. The resolution is not wanted or needed and won't hold up in court. I have more respect for law enforcement and prosecutors in Ottawa County than to believe they will comply with it. It isn't appropriate for the county to put itself above the State and Federal law. If you want laws changed, then go through the proper channels.
5/22/2023 1:47	Thunder Boldt	Yes	Georgetown Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County Resolution	I am opposed to the constitutional county resolution. It will allow a small group of people to run the county however they see fit without regard to external authority - whether that be the state gov or the health department. This is an affront to democracy and should be treated as such - vote no.
5/22/2023 6:11	Doug Wehmeyer	Yes	Park Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County	Please vote NO to declare Ottawa County a Constitutional County! Thank You
5/22/2023 10:30	Sheryl Beerens	Yes	Holland Charter Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional county resolution	<p>Commissioners,</p> <p>I am unable to attend the meeting but I am writing to express my dissent toward any action taken to make Ottawa County a constitutional county. I do NOT want our county to operate outside of current state and federal mandates. The interests of this county would be best served by your (Ottawa Impact's) immediate resignations.</p>
5/22/2023 11:57	Kristi Roelofs	Yes	Blendon Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County Resolution-AGAINST	I ask that you vote AGAINST the Constitutional County Resolution. This resolution is unenforceable to begin with, and you are actively asking our County employees and other elected officials to break Michigan law which we should have no business doing and is exactly what the Chairman and Vice Chair of the county board are explicitly calling for. This resolution is a CLEAR power grab and attempt to usurp a judiciary that has ruled against current board action. This resolution will allow commissioners rights and the duties to overrule any "unjust" law, rule or decision made by a higher authority. THIS IS WRONG! Being a Constitutional County will cost residents money by forcing the county to participate in frivolous lawsuits or alienating visitors or businesses; a potential cash cow for Moss' Kalman Legal. Coincidence?
5/22/2023 14:03	Cathy Paradise	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	making Ottawa a Constitutional County	I am vehemently opposed to Ottawa County being declared a Constitutional County. Please consider the needs and views of all county residents in your decision making process.
5/22/2023 14:34	Paula Edwards	Yes	Port Sheldon Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Opposed to Constitutional County resolution	I am opposed to the proposed Constitutional County resolution. Ottawa County is a duly formed county in the State of Michigan and the State of Michigan is part of the United States of America, subject to both the freedoms and the laws of both the US and the State Constitutions. This action encourages people to break the law, and it does not serve the people of this county.
5/22/2023 15:00	Mark Stephenson	Yes	Holland Charter Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	What is most important to protect: guns or people?	I see that Chairman Moss has introduced a "Resolution to Protect Constitutional Freedom" for discussion and vote at the May 23, 2023, Commissioners meeting. Noting that this resolution highlights the second amendment, that large numbers of children and adults are killed by guns in individual, accidental, suicidal, and mass shootings, and that leaders of the State of Michigan are introducing laws to bring greater gun safety to our state, I'd like the commissioners to consider this question: what is more important in Ottawa county, to protect the guns of Ottawa county or to protect the children and adults of Ottawa County?
5/22/2023 16:10	Pat Smith	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County Resolution	I am concerned by and opposed to the resolution to declare Ottawa County a "constitutional county," but can't attend the May 23 meeting due to illness. As far as I can tell there is no standard definition of a "constitutional county" and the resolution as currently written does not define exactly what the authors' mean by the term. It's hard to tell what exactly we'd be getting in to. Besides, aren't all counties in the U.S. obliged to follow the Constitution? In our U.S. democracy, isn't it the role of the judicial system to decide which laws are constitution or not - I don't think a county board of commissioners has the authority to make those sorts of calls. Please respect the current structure of our democracy - the checks and balances created via the three branches (executive, legislative, judiciary)? This resolution doesn't make me as a citizen of Ottawa County feel freer or more protected, in fact it worries me considerably. Please don't adopt this resolution.
5/22/2023 16:33	Jed Roelofs	Yes	Blendon Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	2nd Amendment Sanctuary	I ask that you vote AGAINST the Constitutional County Resolution. This resolution is unenforceable to begin with, and you are actively asking our County employees and other elected officials to break Michigan law which we should have no business doing and is exactly what the Chairman and Vice Chair of the county board are explicitly calling for. This resolution is a CLEAR power grab and attempt to usurp a judiciary that has ruled against current board action. This resolution will allow commissioners rights and the duties to overrule any "unjust" law, rule or decision made by a higher authority. THIS IS WRONG! Being a Constitutional County will cost residents money by forcing the county to participate in frivolous lawsuits or alienating visitors or businesses; a potential cash cow for Moss' Kalman Legal. Coincidence?
5/22/2023 17:11	Jennifer Nelson	Yes	Spring Lake Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County Vote	<p>Good evening,</p> <p>While I am unable to attend the meeting on Tuesday, I would like my voice heard in the matter of the Resolution declaring Ottawa a constitutional county. I am strongly opposed to this resolution. I do not believe anyone holding a local office should have the power to interpret federal and state laws, deciding which laws are constitutional and which are not. This is a gross overreaching of power that establishes a dangerous precedent. Please consider the desires of ALL constituents, not just the 20% of registered voters that voted many of you into office. I guarantee the other 80% is paying a lot more attention now. Please vote NO on this resolution.</p> <p>Thank you, Jennifer Nelson</p>
5/22/2023 17:12	Anonymous	Yes	Robinson Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Thank you. No more gun restrictions	Thank you for the resolution to remove gun laws from Ottawa County. My history made it so I couldn't get a gun. My neighbor told me you are removing the back ground checks and stuff. Thank you. Let freedom ring.
5/22/2023 17:20	Nicki Arendshorst	Yes	Holland City	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Tonight's agenda items	<p>We are a County that welcomes everyone, regardless of religion/color/gender. We follow the rule of law – federal, state and local. An agenda containing Constitution, guns, and other constructed items (covered at higher levels) serves only to instill fear and anger, and to continue the politics of grievance & divisiveness. There is no mandate for this; the majority of Ottawa County has been opposed to these changes.</p> <p>As Commissioners, really govern. And govern for everyone.</p> <p>We are all patriots and we all love our country. We are so blessed to live here. Let's operate on a basis of kindness, listening to others, as we deal with pressing & necessary county issues. There is room for everyone's voice.</p>
5/22/2023 18:21	John Darling	Yes	Park Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County	I do not feel the proposal to declare Ottawa County "Constitutional " is in the best interests of our county. I support the rights of all citizens,of all genders and the freedom to be whoever they want to be. I don't support the agenda of Christian Nationalism as I don't believe they are acting Christian or in the best interests of all our nation. Respectfully, the commission should put your respective noses to the grindstone and work on policies that will benefit everyone, protect the vulnerable stick to county duties.
5/22/2023 19:26	Marie Doerr	Yes	Georgetown Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County Redundancy	The Sheriff and prosecutor already took oaths to uphold the constitution. They should not answer to any county board member(s) personal moral enforcement demands. It's redundant other than to allow the board to punish them by reducing funding if they don't like their compliance, which is not their job. Parents have rights. The wording in this resolution is a slippery slope to allow for abuse. Not all parents are taking good care of their children, this is a loophole that could be used to allow for abuse in all forms. Many of the board members don't even have children in public schools and much of their grievances are not even relevant. The gun reforms shouldn't pertain to law abiding citizens as you say the constitutional county status "protects." Redundant. Vote no.
5/22/2023 19:45	George Stamas	Yes	Park Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County Proclamation	We are vehemently opposed to your action to proclaim Ottawa County a constitutional county. Your actions, if taken, will hurt, even destroy, years of progress made by former leaders, and their professional staff, working together with their constituents to be a welcoming and forward thinking community. Our family moved to Ottawa County 20 years ago because it was a destination for all people , by the people and of the people, and the county leadership included the people in its process. Needless to say, we do not support or care for your politics. Go back to your local communities with your book bans and other excluding policies and leave Ottawa County to continue to grow into a welcoming, inclusive and visionary community.
5/22/2023 21:01	John Guarino	Yes	Zeeland City	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County	I would like submit my opposition to the upcoming vote on making Ottawa County a "constitutional county." Frankly, it's absurd that we are even having this discussion, but by no means out of character for Joe Moss. Predictably, a delusional ego-maniac of Joe Moss's proportion would think he has the authority to second guess the Supreme Court of the United States. We all live under the jurisdiction of the Constitution of the United States of America, and the Constitution of the State of Michigan. Our government is set up to allow these documents to change with the time and sentiment of the citizens. If you don't like some part, there are pathways to take to amend the documents. Under NO circumstances is a county commission given the right to usurp either of those documents because they simply disagree. The situation that mindset creates is absolute mayhem. What happens if the next Commission decides they don't like the wording of the 1st Amendment and crack down on free speech? What happens when they decide they disagree with the Supreme Court's interpretation of separation of church and state for the purpose of taxing all churches? We have a hierarchy of law for a reason and not Joe Moss, this Commission, or any future commission can claim to know better then our founding fathers and simply make up the rules as they go along. This is nothing more than a short sighted power grab that will absolutely backfire and harm the citizens of this county. Vote NO on this absurd exercise in attempted treason.
5/22/2023 21:36	Chris Kostamo	Yes	Grand Haven City	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Resolution to Protect Constitutional Freedoms	<p>I am a 40+ year resident of the Grand Haven/Spring Lake area and a former Air Force officer.</p> <p>I am appalled by and firmly opposed to resolution proposed by Commission Board Chair Joe Moss and presumably supported by his Ottawa Impact clones that would declare Ottawa County a "Constitutional County" and thereby theoretically place our county government in the position of picking and choosing what laws (federal/state) would be enforced or ignored within the county based on their narrow view of what constitutes moral/ immoral laws.</p> <p>It is, in my view, pure ideologically-driven political theater. It does absolutely nothing to promote the common good. It is, as far as I can see, based wholly upon the extremist views of Mr. Moss and his adherents on the Commission -- views molded by their hatred of (perhaps once-in-a-lifetime and currently non-existent) mask mandates, views that some unseen enemy is coming for their guns (no one is coming for your guns, Mr Moss), views that their theology is THE right one.</p> <p>These are views that simply do not belong in the inner workings of our county government, views that do not represent the majority of people who live, work and enjoy all this county has to offer -- they are views that seek to divide and are meant keep marginalized communities on the fringes. Additionally, Mr. Moss, et. al., believe that they have a mandate to enact such resolutions, yet they are not willing to humble themselves and admit they were elected by a minority of registered voters while most of them ran unopposed. As such, their "mandate", in reality, does not exist.</p> <p>The proposed resolution would be laughable if it weren't for the alarming implications -- the encouragement of political violence being among them. So, I ask the members of the Commission to vote "NO" on the resolution, to respect the rule of law as it exists, and to commit themselves anew to fairly representing the entire diverse, multi-cultural, multi-racial, multi-religion population that IS Ottawa County -- where we ALL (should) belong.</p>
5/22/2023 22:25	Steven and Nancy Spykman	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County proposal	We oppose the idea of declaring Ottawa County to be a so called "Constitutional County". Anyone affiliated with Ottawa County who has taken an oath has already sworn to defend the Constitution of the United States. We view any additional declarations to be gratuitous grandstanding at the very least, and in the worst case a dog whistle for far right malcontents (who seem only to know about the 2nd Amendment) to attempt to violate State of Michigan law regarding firearm usage. The Ottawa Impact group has negatively affected the national & international reputation of our County due to Health Department and DEI issues, and the negative impact of a 2nd Amendment "free for all" will severely worsen the declining perception of my cherished home ground. Well moneyed and well educated friends and acquaintances from out of state and offshore have expressed concerns about visiting here because of the notoriety of this Board's actions. Beyond our personal circle of guests, the festivals hosted in our county and recreational tourism bring in more than 1.3 million visitors and their wallets to Ottawa County. Please reconsider these offending issues.

5/22/2023 22:32	Julie Olson	Yes	Holland Charter Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County Resolution vote	<p>I would like to voice my many concerns and questions regarding this evenings vote on the Constitutional County Resolution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is this type of resolution necessary? • Why not let the judicial process play out for laws that you think are unconstitutional? • What are the implications of this resolution? • Which laws are you targeting that you claim are unconstitutional? • What background knowledge and expertise do the members of the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners have that allows them to decide what is constitutional and what is not? • You specifically mention parental rights to make medical decisions for their children as part of the Fourteenth Amendment. Does this include medical decisions that you personally disagree with or just what you think parents should be able to decide on? • In declaring Ottawa County a "Constitutional County", how do you ensure that EVERYONE who lives here feels like they belong? • How do you ensure that the freedom and liberties you claim we will have by being a "Constitutional County" are applied to EVERYONE, not just those with your viewpoints? • You claim in the resolution that "the people of Ottawa County overwhelmingly spoke with their vote to restore and protect the constitutional rights of the people as a first priority of the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners". If you are referring to the outcome of the November election in which members of Ottawa Impact were elected to this board, you were not elected by an overwhelming majority of the voters of Ottawa County. Yes, you won a majority of the people who voted, but this was not the majority of eligible voters in the county. <p>As county commissioners you should be striving to build consensus and carry out policies that benefit ALL who live in the county, not just those who agree with your viewpoints.</p>
5/23/2023 0:17	Terrie Criner	Yes	Port Sheldon Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Vote No on resolution re:Constitutional County	<p>I am opposed to the Resolution declaring Ottawa a constitutional county. Please vote no on this resolution!</p> <p>Thank you</p>
5/23/2023 8:33	Catherine Colten	Yes	Park Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County	<p>Commissioners, is the wisdom of 230 years of judicial opinion to be eliminated in Ottawa County? The efforts of OI commissioners seems to be misguided and idolatrous, making a god of liberty and freedom rather than administrating for the common good and for the love of constituents. I strongly oppose making Ottawa County a "constitutional county" and would rather see efforts put toward obeying Matthew 22:37-39; love God and love neighbor. Respectfully, C. Colten</p>
5/23/2023 9:24	Rob Colten	Yes	Park Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County Resolution Concern	<p>Who gets to decide what is constitutional? The general structure of US government is that there are the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. The federal government has certain roles and responsibilities and delegates some roles and responsibilities to the states. Michigan has similar government structure and delegates some roles and responsibilities to counties. County commissioners and government should be dealing with issues that are local - infrastructure, recreation, social services, environmental, public safety, zoning, and administrative to name a few areas. The commissioners should be concerned about the local economy and the well-being of residents. Determining what is constitutional, whether that is a reference to the US constitution or the Michigan constitution, should be left to the appropriate courts in the judicial system. It is not appropriate for the local commissioners to decide for themselves which state or federal laws violate state or federal constitutions, nor is it appropriate for local commissioners to decide for themselves which state or federal laws will be followed locally. I encourage the county commissioners and administration to accept their defined roles and responsibilities and to not overstep these boundaries and assume that they are also part of the judicial branch and able to determine what is constitutional.</p>
5/23/2023 9:26	Kate Cryderman Cole	Yes	Spring Lake Village	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Proposed Constitutional County	<p>We moved here from the east side of the state in January of 2020. As we worked with our realtor he made the comment that we would find the people on this side of the state very different from what we experienced on the east side. He explained that people were kinder, they knew and looked after their neighbors, and they were conscientious about following the local and state laws and mandates. We found that to be true. People stopped to let others cross the street. When a woman tripped on the sidewalk people dropped what they were doing to help her. We were welcomed warmly by our neighbors. We sensed a real kindness. Initially, What has happened with the new members of the County Commission has created a divided county. There is real fear. Will programs that support public health be cancelled? Will our libraries be closed? Do we need to be in fear of being shot in church, at a grocery store? Christ said we should love God with all our Heart and our neighbor as ourselves. Not just the people who look like us, vote like us, love like us, all are our neighbor. Responsible government reflects this. Responsible government officials recognize that only the judicial branch can interpret the constitution. Responsible government officials recognize they work for all of the residents, not just those who voted for them. I respectfully request responsible government and I do not wish to be a "constitutional county". I wish to live in a county where you, all of you and all of us, belong.</p>
5/23/2023 9:46	Laura Grafton	Yes	Spring Lake Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County proposal	<p>The Board's proposal to declare Ottawa County a "constitutional county" is an exercise in redundancy sune as a part of the United Statesd we are already obliged to support the Constitution. This is just another PR oriented tactic on the part of our regressive commissioners, this time to justify disobeying the State of Michigan's new (badly needed!) gun control regulations and encourage future noncompliance by law enforcement by denting them funds. It is not up to a county government to pick and choose which state or federal laws should be obeyed based on your interpretaipn of the Founding documents. Leave that to the courts, as the Constitution stipulates. I urge you to vote against this resolution.</p>
5/23/2023 9:49	Amy Dean	Yes	Grand Haven City	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Unconstitutional "Constitutional County" Vote	<p>Dear Ottawa County Board of Commissioners,</p> <p>I am writing this public comment as a resident and local physician to urge you to oppose declaring Ottawa County a "Constitutional County".</p> <p>Freedom for residents of Ottawa County means not putting your personal, political and religious beliefs and interests above the will of the people. Just remember, your personal beliefs are not above state and federal law and not above the will of the voters and residents of Ottawa County.</p> <p>The citizens of Michigan have clearly spoken when they elected Governor Whitmer and a democratic senate and house. Going rogue does not put you above the law, it dismantles the Democratic process and the will of the people.</p> <p>The people have spoken. It's time for you to stand down.</p> <p>Dr. Amy L. Dean</p>
5/23/2023 10:11	Lois Maassen	Yes	Blendon Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Opposition to "constitutional county" resolution	<p>As a long-time citizen and taxpayer in Ottawa County, I cannot state this strongly enough: I have NO INTEREST in having my county commissioners interpose themselves between me and my state and federal constitutional rights. I do not want or need you to cherry-pick which rights are protected. I cannot endorse, as this resolution does in the sixth "whereas," the opinion of a Texas state attorney general as definitive on the 14th amendment. I am not interested in your opinions on constitutional law. I prefer to rely on the Michigan and federal supreme courts for interpretations and protection of my rights.</p> <p>The seventh "whereas" is untrue and inflammatory. The eighth "whereas" is also untrue. "The people of Ottawa County" have not spoken with one voice, and this commission has done little to encourage civic and civil dialog.</p> <p>One of you wrote to constituents saying this resolution is "simply an expression of our commitment to adhere to the Bill of Rights and the Constitution of the United States of America." You all swore an oath just five months ago. Is your commitment so dubious that it must be confirmed?</p> <p>This resolution intends to disrupt our democratic systems by asserting power beyond the county's jurisdiction. It will sow further division and cost all of us taxpayers in legal fees. It is unAmerican--in fact, antiAmerican. Vote no.</p>
5/23/2023 10:49	Shelly Stephens	Yes	Robinson Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional county resolution	<p>I am against a resolution declaring Ottawa County a 'constitutional county'.</p>
5/23/2023 10:50	Anthony Driza	Yes	Port Sheldon Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County Resolution	<p>I am dead set against this resolution that does absolutely nothing but fire up the extreme right wing Christian Nationalist base. Children in this country are being murdered in this country daily by those exercising their second amendment "right" to bear arms and you do nothing. What happens when someone walks into Meijer or any one of our area schools or decides to target the Coast Guard Parade with an AR15 style weapon and opens fire? By the time law enforcement gets there, many are dead, and the shooter is dead by police suicide, or offs himself. Think it can't happen here? Neither did those at MSU or Highland Park, IL. Joe Moss is not going to ride in on a white horse and save the day with his pistol. In a county where flying my drone is more problematic that wandering around with an AR15, something is wrong.</p> <p>LGBTQ are being systematically discriminated against and you do nothing.</p> <p>Ottawa County is definitely not "Where Freedom Rings." Your self proclaimed "mandate" is nothing more than pre-election plotting out of public sight to implement your point of views - had your views been widely know before the election, none of you would have been elected. Ottawa County has been hijacked by Ottawa Impact and in reality it is "Where Your Freedoms Don't Agree With Ours." Perhaps you should concentrate on issues like fixing our roads that look like they have been carpet bombed, or on how to protect our schools with something more substantial than "thoughts and prayers."</p>
5/23/2023 10:51	Cat Jackson	Yes	Spring Lake Village	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Stop the Insanity	<p>This constitutional county nonsense needs to stop. YOU ARE NOT KINGS AND QUEENS! This is a democracy. You are supposed to take care of EVERYONE, not just the people who think like you. Ottawa County is for EVERYONE.</p>
5/23/2023 11:16	Kelsey Willemstein	Yes	Allendale Charter Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Disappointed	<p>I am very disappointed in the decisions that have been made so far. Removing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion representation is not only going to hugely backfire but is a clear representation of the bigotry and radically conservative side of the Commissioners. We should all strive for the values that the diversity, equity and inclusion groups provide, and you are setting a bad example for our children. It is 2023 and we all have different religious, political and other beliefs. We need to be respectful of ALL those beliefs and recognize the beauty in our differences. The majority of citizens are not far right or far left but somewhere in the middle and the Commissioners should strive to represent ALL and find a balance in their agendas.</p>
5/23/2023 11:21	Nancy Lampen	Yes	Zeeland City	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County	<p>The Resolution to become a Constitutional County is unnecessary and divisive for the Ottawa County. The language in the resolution is a word salad that can be interpreted and manipulated by the leaders if the county commission. Before you pass this, please ask questions to find out what each "whereas" and "the it resolved" statements mean.</p> <p>Please be mindful of the legal expenses that this will lead to when the the commissioners try to become a gun sanctuary or deny funding to programs because they support the LGBTQ community.</p> <p>There is no good that can come from this unnecessary resolution but it will cause harm to our county and those who live here.</p>
5/23/2023 11:27	Jennifer Agar	Yes	Holland Charter Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County	<p>I am against the resolution that is being considered tonight and being brought forth by Joe Moss to declare Ottawa County a constitutional county.</p>
5/23/2023 11:39	Peter clark	Yes	Robinson Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Against resolution to become a constitutional coun	<p>Against resolutionan to become a constitutional county</p>
5/23/2023 11:45	Lisa Fritsma	Yes	Blendon Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional rights as individuals	<p>In regards to a possible resolution to adopt Ottawa County as a constitutional county, I support this 100%! Please bring us back to individual rights and liberties that were endowed to us to long ago. Those same ones that are being whittled away by government that doesn't seem to know or care about our constitution, those that wish to think of the constitution as a piece of old paper only. We the people have rights and for you members of the board to stand up and support those rights is imperative. Make Ottawa county a constitutional county! Thank you!</p>
5/23/2023 11:47	Yvonne Olmsted	Yes	Grand Haven City	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County very much against	<p>I am very much against the vote tonight May 23, that the commissioners plan to have turning Ottawa County into a so called 'Constitutional County' and being exempt from state and federal gun safety laws, health mandates and anything else that the Ottawa Impact endorsed county commissioners don't "believe" is constitutional. If they follow with this move, many litigations will be brought forth with all the costs paid for by Ottawa County residents! I do not want to turn Ottawa County into a narrow thinking place run by a certain religious agenda where all who live here are not welcome or given the opportunity to live without fear of who they may be.</p>
5/23/2023 12:30	Mary Raper	Yes	Georgetown Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County	<p>I oppose the resolution to make Ottawa County "constitutional". I support laws that are made by our judges, legislature, governor, and President, as written by them.</p>
5/23/2023 12:51	Susan Schurman	Yes	Holland City	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County resolution	<p>I Am opposed to the Constitutional County resolution, and urge the commissioners to vote no. It is not part of your job to interpret the constitution and determine which laws to follow. You are required to follow all laws and mandates, until such time as the courts find them unconstitutional.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
5/23/2023 12:58	Julie Postmus	Yes	Hudsonville City	Board of Commissioners Meeting	NO to constitutional county resolution	<p>I do not support the constitutional county resolution. There is a clear agenda to this and a massive overstep of the board. Even putting this on the agenda has likely come at a great cost to the people of our county, taking away the time, energy, and resources that could be spent on so many other vitally important things. Please stop making Ottawa County look so ridiculous. Stop trying to be the heroes to fix something that was not even broken. There's plenty of broken systems to fix and instead of helping, you are making it much much harder. Please get out of the way and let people do their jobs and focus on doing yours. This resolution is not part of your job.</p>
5/23/2023 13:16	Marsha Manning	Yes	Port Sheldon Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Objection to 'Constitutional County' proposal	<p>I strongly object to the concept of making Ottawa County a so called 'Constitutional County'. Our state and federal framework already had a process to determine whether laws are constitutional. This is the responsibility of the courts and NOT a small group of local officials. I am not comfortable with the concept that a small majority of the board of commissioners would potentially determine which laws are followed in this county. The result will be chaos and litigation. This commission has already proven to be poor fiduciaries as evidenced by unnecessary severance expense by firing county employees without cause, and engaging in practices that invite litigation. I do not want my tax dollars being used to defend this absurd concept (constitutional county). Nor do I want a small group of commissioners determine which laws or regulations, from the state or from Washington, are followed here. Please spend your time solving real problems in this county and stop wasting time and tax dollars on unproven strategies meant to impose your will on it w citizens of the county. It is common knowledge that Ottawa Impact grew out of failed lawsuits regarding some of the public health measures implemented during the pandemic. The constitutional county approach appears to be a means to impose your will on this county when the courts do not support your perspective. I object to this and urge this commission to vote no to a so called 'Constitutional County'</p>
5/23/2023 13:26	William Young	Yes	Spring Lake Village	Board of Commissioners Meeting	So-called constitutional county resolution	<p>I am opposed. Constitutional county resolutions are un-American and anti-constitutional, and based upon a total lack of understanding of American law. A local body of government created solely by statute has no power or authority to supercede other constitutionally and/or statutory body. This type of resolution makes a mockery of American values. Not only that, despite what you may have been told by your "esteemed" lawyers who have NO history of municipal law except suing other government bodies, this type of resolution has been rejected by rational state courts and will do absolutely nothing but waste tax dollars which will be necessitated by the inevitable litigation which will result. For those supporters who view themselves as patriots and living by your constitutional rights, you are simply wrong. These resolutions are an abomination and a stain on American democracy. Please consider rejecting this nonsense and avoid this absolute waste of taxpayer dollars and utterly nonsensical fraudulent idea.</p>
5/23/2023 13:28	Gwen Fosse	Yes	Ferrysburg City	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County resolution	<p>It is perplexing that the Board feels that it is necessary to declare the county a "constitutional county". One would hope that the commissioners would understand that as a part of the USA we are obliged to support the Constitution. This reflects very poorly on the board as they apparently would like to use this tactic to spur those who choose to be duped into believing there is justice in disobeying the State of Michigan's new regulations. Particularly when the voice of the people makes it evident that firearm regulations and safety is desired and needed. I suspect that none of the commissioners has ever had to care for a gun violence victim. It is horrific. If the board votes for this, it is clear that they are positioning Ottawa County to be highlighted as county tolerant of gun violence to an even greater extent than most - in a country that has failed to protect the citizens unlike every other developed country in the world. At a time when the most common cause of death of our nation's children and youth is gun violence, it is reprehensible to vote in favor of any resolution that is so dangerous. It is not the role of the county government to determine which state and federal laws should be obeyed. It is their role to abide by the decisions that occur based on the choices our people have made in our democracy. It is not acceptable to base decisions on your interpretation of the Founding documents but it is your responsibility to abide by the laws and represent our citizens responsibly. Please protect our families and vote against this resolution.</p>

5/23/2023 13:58	Kelle Bovid	Yes	Crockery Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional county	I am against the designation of Constitutional County. As a small business owner I fear the designation and the far right bend of the majority of commissioners will scare potential employees away from the county. We have courts to decide what is constitutional and what is not. Not the job of county commissioners.
5/23/2023 14:07	Luanne Helder	Yes	Zeeland Charter Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional county designation	I am deeply opposed to the resolution being presented tonight to declare Ottawa County a constitutional county.
5/23/2023 14:11	Becky Becker	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County	I oppose to the motion to define Ottawa County as Constitutional County.
5/23/2023 14:22	Cynthia and Craig Timmerma	Yes	Polkton Charter Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	No to creating a Constitutional County	When one reads about the actual impact and danger of creating a Constitutional County, it becomes clear that this is NOT a resolution that will be a positive, nor necessary resolution to adopt. Joe Moss and the rest of his Oil cult members are not Constitutional Schoars nor Lawyers, and have little interest in truly serving the citizens of this county. What Mr Moss and his ilk are interested in, is destroying the lines between church and state. We need only look to the Middle East, the Crusades, and many other examples of dictatorships across global history to see how this ends up. Both Craig and I are a firm NO to the Constitutional County resolution. You serve all, not just your church Joe. The mask mandates didn't hurt you or yours. Grow up.
5/23/2023 15:05	Joanne Lucas Lachney	Yes	Spring Lake Village	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Ottawa County as a 2nd amendment Sanctuary Cou	I support the gun safety laws recently approved by the Michigan legislature. Safe gun storage laws protect our children. Expanded background checks help prevent the illegal sale of unregistered guns. Red flag laws are helpful in cases of domestic abuse and suicide. Furthermore, I support our county law enforcement officers and rely on them to keep us safe. We cannot condone any resolutions which suggest law enforcement officers should decide which laws are (or are not) constitutional. We cannot condone any resolution which encourages residents to disobey the law.
5/23/2023 15:14	Jim and Gloria DeWaard	Yes	Holland City	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Vote on Constitutional County	Ottawa County is a duly formed county in the State of Michigan and The United States of America. Thus Ottawa County is subject to the state and United States Constitution as well as all state and federal laws. Adopting a resolution to make Ottawa County a "Constitutional County" is antithetical to being part of the United States and is not in the best interest of Ottawa County. Sincerely and Respectfully submitted
5/23/2023 15:42	Chris Williams	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Dissent of resolution to make Ottawa County a Cons	It is with grave concern I dissent the resolution to make Ottawa County a Constitutional County. This resolution will only serve to isolate us from our neighbors, state, and country. I encourage the Board to consider the benefit of working together to secure our freedoms, not selfishly resolve to create a County that only serves the values of a select few. Our freedoms are the most secure and most valued when they are realized together as a diverse community of people. When one group with a narrow perspective of freedom forces its agenda on everyone, our community is weakened, less free, and prone to disruption and violence. This can be seen the world over and throughout history whenever tyrants with narrow views attempt to force people to adhere to their personal vision. Our community is strongest when all people are considered, honored, and listened to. Yes, this will mean compromise. The best leaders understand and reflect that in their leadership.
5/23/2023 15:49	Nancy Schneider	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Opposition to a "Constitutional County"	I oppose Ottawa County becoming a "Constitutional County". I do not believe our County Commissioners should have the power to make changes or disregard laws made at the state or federal level. There can be serious consequences, both financially and to our desire to be open minded and fair to all that live and visit here.
5/23/2023 15:52	Dale Sheler Jr	Yes	Robinson Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	The appalling decisions made by some board memb	Hello, my name is DALE Sheler Jr. I live at 10723 Rich St in Robinson Township. I have lived in Ottawa County since 1965. I came here tonight because I felt that I needed to go on the record as saying I'm absolutely appalled at by What I'm seeing from some members of this board. Last week Mr. Moss and Mrs. Rhodes welcomed "reverend" Matt Trehwella to a meeting in this building. This "reverend" believes the best gift you can give your children is an SKS rifle and 500 rounds of Ammunition. He also says he is teaching his 14-month-old child which finger is his trigger finger. Now,.....I was brought up in the Christian Reformed Church and I went to Allendale Christian Elementary school. I don't claim any of this makes me in any sense an expert in the finer points of most matters pertaining to religion, but I do know that what this "reverend" preaches is some kind of horribly perverted mashup of the Old Testament and whatever goes on in his twisted brain. He has somehow missed the message of the entire New Testament. You will not find in any of Jesus teachings in the New Testament where he condones murdering anyone for any reason as "reverend" Trehwella does. Also, as an owner of firearms and a ccw holder it disappoints me greatly to see someone in his position just glibly making statements like he does about guns as it just gives more ammunition to anti-gun people to point at and say look at the kind of nut jobs we have out there with guns. My last point though is probably the most important to me, it should be clear to anyone who cares to look closely that you are trying to set up your own little christofascist theocracy here in our county. In the resolution you plan to pass tonight you mention the Constitution, The Constitution was drafted by some of the most enlightened men of their time and in the Constitution, they set up a Federal Constitutional Republic because they knew all too well the failings of monarchies and theocracies. Just remember you will not be in this office forever and whatever misguided constructs you set up will not stand.
5/23/2023 15:56	David Inbody	Yes	Coopersville City	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional county	I strongly oppose your desire to make Ottawa County a constitutional county for the intention of ignoring state "red flag" laws. Firearms safety should be a priority to protect the citizens of our county. Red Flag laws are intended as a deterrent of those that misuse firearms, not the people that follow gun safety!
5/23/2023 15:57	Ronald Rhoades	Yes	Holland Charter Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Repugnant Subversive Requirements on Board Acti	The Resolution under proposal is subversive to our government entities because it directs and: - It commits the board to deny funding to actions to uphold laws of higher authority; - It commits the county law enforcement entities from enforcing laws of higher authority; and - It seeks to impose on the authority of legislative entities from considering enhancements to our body of laws.
5/23/2023 16:07	Susan Newton	No		Board of Commissioners Meeting	Upcoming vote	I live in Muskegon County, I regularly go into Ottawa County for business and pleasure. What happens there affects me greatly. What I understand this commission is proposing will take us back two hundred plus years to a time when people didn't take care of each other, and there was no way to bring all of us forward together. I do not understand the mean-spirited nature of so much of this kind of activity. How is it that you hate your fellow man so much? Why aren't you more motivated by compassion and kindness? And I certainly don't understand how you label yourselves "Republicans". You seem to care nothing for the welfare and future of our country. You only seem focused on your selves. This great experiment in democracy will fail, if you succeed. This is not the world I want for my kids and grandkids. And you give fuel to our enemies. Shame on you.
5/23/2023 16:07	Penny Shuff	Yes	Holland City	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County	This is vague, broad and unnecessary. It seems you are performing instead of governing. Please reconsider this idea.
5/23/2023 16:14	Eileen Boucek	Yes	Hudsonville City	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County Resolution Vote	I am opposed to the Resolution declaring Ottawa a constitutional county because I feel this has been brought to the board by a select few and without input from Ottawa County residents. Please vote no on this resolution. To show true transparency, there should be a discussion among all stakeholders so everyone can be informed on all aspects of the issue and the long term impact to the county. Declaring Ottawa County a constitutional county should be a ballot issue so that ALL voters can be part of the decision making process. It absolutely is not a decision that should be made by a select few. Thank you for your time and consideration, Eileen Boucek
5/23/2023 16:29	Megan Ryan	Yes	Holland Charter Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Vote no on constitutional county	I support constitutional rights. I have concerns about the specifics of this resolution: namely, the implication that the board will be interpreting the US and Michigan constitutions for funding purposes and encouraging other county officials to not enforce laws on the books. These parts of the resolution interfere with the checks and balances built into our government. Please don't try to insert county government where it was never intended to be. Vote no on the resolution or suggest an alternative that avoids these concerns. I emailed most of you already but wanted my comments on the record this way as well.
5/23/2023 16:37	Amanda Karolkiewicz	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County	YOU are working for us. We, as Michiganders, have shown what we want by sweeping all of the midterm elections blue. You do not have the right to override any state or federal laws just because you have big personal feelings. Just know: the Republican party is dying, and we will come for the board next and unseat all of you Christian Nationalist Facists if we see you ignoring the votes of the people. Please make smart choices if you'd like to remain in your positions for very long. Sincerely, an Ottawa County resident who "actually" cares about democracy.)
5/23/2023 16:46	Janine CHITTENDEN	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County Resolution	I, Janine Chittenden of Grand Haven Township, a registered Republican, am against the very idea of Ottawa County becoming a Constitutional County. The ten WHEREAS statements followed by the seven THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED comments are absurd. Your plan to supersede and skirt the rules, regulations and policy set forth by the State of Michigan and the United States Constitution is deplorable. The collateral damage to our county will be devastating. Who will decide which laws are unjust. Chaos will ensue. A sheriff will be the ultimate authority? Ridiculous! Are your plans to succeed from the Union? This is starting to sound like the beginning of an insurrection. Typically counties who become a Constitutional County refuse to pay taxes to State and Federal entities. You have claimed to be fiscally responsible, but the actions you have taken in removing the County Administrator and legal council have been fiscally derisive and derelict. If Ottawa County does not pay it's taxes you risk the the State of Michigan and the federal government no longer funding our county. Your non-binding resolution is dangerous, detrimental, and I strongly denounce becoming a Constitutional County.
5/23/2023 16:47	Rob Rodriguez	No		Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County Resolution	Thank you for considering the resolution to become a Constitutional County. There is no greater honor you can do for your county then to guarantee its Board of Commissioners remain committed to the U.S. Constitution and the Michigan Constitution. The passing of this resolution should not be a partisan action, as every Commissioner took an oath to uphold the Constitution. That oath is sacred and it is a promise to the public that you'll be our advocates while you are in office. We encourage Ottawa County to join Livingston County as a Constitutional County! In GOD We Trust! Rob, 2A Patriot Livingston County, a Constitutional County
5/23/2023 16:54	Jennifer Roberts	Yes	Grand Haven City	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Ottawa County a so-called "Constitutional County?"	I'm appalled at the prospect of the County Board of Commissioners turning Ottawa County into a so-called Constitutional County. This is a disgrace and a blatant power grab, and I'm deeply disturbed by the desire for absolute power driving the actions of the Ottawa Impact-affiliated board members. We don't need a gun sanctuary in Ottawa County!! In our county, citizens are free to carry and collect guns already. That right isn't threatened, so it's dishonest and disingenuous to pretend that it is. Instead, we need to make Ottawa County a PEOPLE SANCTUARY, where everyone, regardless of race, religion, gender identity, or sexual preferences feels safe and protected and where the laws of the state of Michigan and the United States are followed. You should be ashamed of this absurd, unnecessary, undemocratic, and frankly, exceedingly unChristian effort to exert your power. You don't want liberty for everyone in Ottawa County. You want to control everyone in Ottawa County. You are attempting to impose your own cultural beliefs on all of us. This is the opposite of liberty, the opposite of freedom. It's fundamentally unAmerican, and wrong! You should be ashamed.
5/23/2023 17:07	Cynthia Veldheer DeYoung	Yes	Holland City	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County	The agenda item proposing that Ottawa County Board of Commissioners resolve to be a "constitutional county" seems arrogant and misinformed. I would ask that you consider ways that we can turn our swords into plowshares, our spears into pruning hooks. But I am getting the impression that such metaphors are lost in the wave of fear and individual rights. I appeal to you to consider ways we can work together for peace and to promote public health for the good of all. It seems that you are stuck on the health practices that led to mask wearing, and now your response is to take away masks and replace them with guns. We'd be better off with better communication tools; I fear that guns will become one tool in your communication tool belt that leaves more people dead.
5/23/2023 17:10	Stacie VanOosterhout	Yes	Tallmadge Charter Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	New Board	You do not have my support. You are behaving irrationally and are not representing me in any way. I pay taxes and have a right to representation. Even when people disagree, public office holders pledge to represent everyone. You, collectively under the new majority, are failing at this basic principle. Just so you know.
5/23/2023 17:24	Bert Duinkerken	Yes	Holland City	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Do not vote yes for sanctuary county!	Do not vote yes for sanctuary county!
5/23/2023 17:47	Kate Canale	Yes	Jamestown Charter Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County Resolution	I do not support the constitutional county resolution that is to be voted on tonight. This resolution is a waste of time. This resolution attempts to claim that our county will not enforce state laws particularly those relating to gun safety. This is out of the commission's jurisdiction as a county cannot legally contradict state laws. This is clearly a smoke and mirrors show for your base of conservative constituents. I am deeply concerned with the direction the Oil commissioners are taking our county. I am grateful for the few on the board that have been standing up for the community as a whole asking difficult questions and not blindly following Joe Moss' lead at every turn. Please, vote no on this unnecessary unenforceable resolution.
5/23/2023 17:56	Jeanne Lutz	Yes	Robinson Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Thanks	I would like to thank all of the commissioners for all of their hard work in ottawa county this year. I appreciate going back to common sense policy thank you.
5/23/2023 17:58	Lori Spillane	No		Board of Commissioners Meeting	Not one dime	Hi I spend a lot of tourism dollars. Not one cent will be spent in Ottawa County while this Ottawa Impact craziness is going on.

5/23/2023 18:21	Maria Walters	Yes	Holland Charter Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County	Commissioners, Declaring Ottawa County a Constitutional County doesn't make you more patriotic than others. And those who oppose this act are not against the Constitution. I love my country and my state, and my county, and I want laws that consider all residents, not just a very small group. Freedom for All people, regardless of their views and lifestyles, and including all kinds of Families. I urge you to vote NO tonight. Thank you, Maria Walters
5/23/2023 18:25	Denise Oman	Yes	Hudsonville City	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County	I AM VERY VERY VERY unhappy with the direction you are taking with Ottawa County and this is just another example of misrepresentation of your constituents! The Governor is attempting to protect all people that live in Michigan related to guns and mass shootings. HOW MANY MORE PEOPLE NEED TO DIE??? STOP YOUR POLITICING AND REPRESENT ALL OTTAWA COUNTY RESIDENTS!!! WE NEED TO STOP WARRING WITH EACH OTHER AND FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET ALONG - AND PROTECT ONE ANOTHER!!!
5/23/2023 18:41	Sue Sklendziel	Yes	Holland Charter Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional county	I am very concerned about this vote for becoming a "constitutional county". It is just a way for these Ol folks to find a way to ignore gun regulations or future public health directives. I am so thankful for the recent common sense gun regulations that have been passed in Michigan. And yet these Ol yahoos think that a Red Flag regulation would somehow impede their constitutional rights. Red flag laws protect all of us from homicides and suicides, preventable because their friends and family knows their state of mind. If we are truly constitutional, then we already believe in well regulated guns. We need our public health professionals to be able to protect us from future illnesses. I am so thankful for their knowledge, expertise, and hard work during the last pandemic. Ol county commissioners need to stay in their lane. Let the experts and our hard working county employees do their jobs.
5/23/2023 18:49	Daniel VanTil	Yes	Blendon Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Extremist Board Members	I feel that Joe Moss and his Ottawa Impact extremists are not leading our county. They are only interested in putting their extremist agenda in place and are unwilling to hear anything that may be contradictory to that agenda. They hid in shadow, seemingly funneling money to his political cronies and costing the county a lot of money with poor decisions and leadership. He does not represent me and has no desire to. Doug Zystra and Jacob Bonnema try to get contradictory opinions on record but are spoken over or have their mics turned off. The Ottawa Impact folks continue to stonewall FOIA efforts. The Ol folks refuse any outside interview request and will only sit down with friendly reporters who hold the same extremist views. They're plan to make the county a constitutional county will cost us money and safety in the short and long term. Whether this is meant to just "communicate their opinion" or not, their views are not my own and not of the majority of the county. They over reach their responsibilities often and their extremism is not a service to our county or communities.
5/23/2023 18:58	Daniel Van Den Bosch	Yes	Holland City	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitution	I support the board and the push to make ottawa county a constitutional county. This is important to our freedoms. As we have seen through out history, radical left wing governments live the soviet union work to squash God given liberties like the freedom of religion, press, speech, the right to keep and bear arms. Often individuals who promote limits on speech, press, religion and the right to keep and bear arms are sympathetic to such causes. This is demonstrated by support of Che Guevara, Castro, or other communist ideas and ideals. It is paramount that the board of commissioners tonight, make ottawa county a constitutional county, pressing back on the oppression pushed out by our leaders of the state and federal government. The constitution is clear, and I believe it is the right thing to do. Don't allow ottawa county government resources be used to promote oppression coming from our state.
5/23/2023 19:25	HEIDI LUCKEN	No		Board of Commissioners Meeting	2A 'SANCTUARY'	I will NOT say anything mean or rude to anyone. However, red flag laws exist in 20 other states and they save lives. Becareful about having your sheriff 'refuse or decline' to use red flag laws, he'll lose his job. I don't think you folks on this board, currently, understand how government and law work. Evangelism & revival culture died in the late 1800's. Join the current century before you end up in jail.
5/23/2023 19:27	Anita Hanjaab	Yes	Jamestown Charter Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	2A sanctuaries	To whom it may concern, I'll tell you what! I believe in Democracy! I believe in my FREEDOMS. I know this for a FACT: The #1 killer of children is not pediatric cancer. It is not car accidents. It is not drug overdoses or poisonings. It is not fires, burns, or drownings. The #1 killer of children AND adolescents are firearm related incidents. To not have common sense gun laws and background checks is anti life for our living children. Facts matter, Sincerely, Anita Hanjaab
5/23/2023 19:35	Mia Aslqor	No		Board of Commissioners Meeting	2A	The very fact that a group of ammosexuals are trying to supersede the law of the state is pathetic. All you people care about are your phallic replacement devices. You are corrupt and deserve to be ridiculed perpetually.
5/23/2023 19:40	Lori Cowman	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County	Ottawa county is part of this great state and therefore obliged to follow the laws of the state. I expect that my commissioners concentrate their work on the county budget, appropriations, personnel, capital improvements, county services, and other internal matters in a way that benefits our county residents
5/23/2023 20:26	James Turner	Yes	Port Sheldon Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County	Not your job. If you want to change the laws, win statewide elections, and the House of Representatives. Voting yes is not only wrong, but an expensive mistake, local taxpayers and business will have to cover the eventual legal bills Vote no on making Ottawa county a constitutional county.
5/23/2023 20:28	Roger Vandermolen	Yes	Grand Haven City	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Making Ottawa county a sanctuary county	This is the most absurd thing you could do. This has been the most wonderful county to live in and you want to make it similar to what Hitler tried to do to Germany & what did it get him. Stop this absurdity and get on governing what the majority f county residents have come here for and want to continuing life being here for. Not some hairbrained ideas that you Mr. Moss and a few of you are scheming up to.
5/24/2023 13:13	David Eklov	Yes	Port Sheldon Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Ol Insanity	Dear Commissioners - You were elected to serve the needs of the residents of Ottawa County. You are very clearly pushing your own agenda without regard to public input and a view of compassion. In order to remain a county where business owners like myself want to stay and recruit talented people, we need to be an open and inclusive society. We will not win based on what you are doing here. I implore you to be even slightly more moderate and inclusive. Stop being scared that your power and grasp over society is slipping, and figure out how to compete in a changing world. What you are doing is doing more damage than good.
5/24/2023 13:23	QuelAn Engels	Yes	Park Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Gun violence	As a mother of two and a 30 year resident of Ottawa County, I am appalled at the apparent disregard that this commission has for the wishes of Ottawa County residents. You clearly want to further your own agendas instead of doing what is truly right for the residents of our county. We do not want lax gun control here, in fact, we want common sense firearm laws and restrictions that will keep our residents and children safe from harm. Because of your completely misplaced attacks on good common sense policies in the public health field, I am seriously considering moving out of this county. It has been my home and the place I raised my children. I have contributed probably north of \$350,000 in taxes since I lived here. We have always been proud of the work the county commission has done to work for the common good, and you are NOT doing that. Your policies are not Christian in nature, they are radical in nature. Your so-called freedoms are taking mine away. We are extremely disappointed in your actions this year, and are putting you on notice that we are going to do everything we can to vote you out, or at the very least to make you sit up and notice that you are not doing what the people want, you are only doing what a small minority of people want, and that is autocratic rule, not democratic rule. I sincerely hope that you will listen to the will of the people, and start doing your jobs, which is to represent us, not your fascist agenda.
5/24/2023 13:25	Tracey Partridge	Yes	Grand Haven Charter Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	NO consitutional county	The residents of this county deserve better than for you, the so called "board", to make us less diverse, less inclusive, and now, less safe. Voting the way you did and continue to do will make us fight you out of your magat seats!
5/24/2023 14:09	Larry Buzas	Yes	Robinson Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County Resolution	I am speaking to the Ottawa Impact commissioners only. I submitted a comment opposing the resolutions prior to the meeting. I attended the meeting. Clearly, the majority of the speakers and those present did not support the resolution by approximately 75% to 25%. Your actions are not representative if the majority of citizens of Ottawa county. You violated your oath of office, you clearly do not understand the functions of government. Lavsults will follow every decision you make based on this resolution. You think you are big fish in a very small pond but your tenure in office is destined to be short lived because the voters will not let this stand.More people did not vote at all then voted for your Christian Nationalist agenda. You have no mandate. Power to the people and the ballot!
5/24/2023 15:23	Marlene Vitasinski	Yes	Park Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Concern over Resolution Vote 23May23	I attended the May 23, 23 BOC meeting. This is an email from a thread of District One emails that I sent to friends this morning. Gretchen Cosby apparently sent out some form letters offering talk and coffee before the vote. "I guess I was naive to think that when 75% of the comments were against the resolution they might have tabled it to consider the voiced concerns. It seems obvious now the Ol commissioners are not interested in representing their constituents but pursuing a darker agenda. On the brighter side people are mobilizing. Coffee??? A lot of District One residents got the same form letter and want to get together. Marlene "
5/24/2023 15:32	Jonetta Brown	Yes	Holland City	Board of Commissioners Meeting	The Board's decision re "constitutional county"	Finding this action of the Board to be completely unnecessary and a complete waste of the Board's time.
5/24/2023 15:40	Chuck Hornung	Yes	Holland Charter Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	'Constitutional County'	I disagree with this board's action May 23 to consider Ottawa County a "constitutional county". Don't we all in Michigan live under the constitution? If the board's intent is to fail to protect us under a pandemic or restrict the books available in the library, many of us are in total disagreement with your cause. This sounds like a blatant attempt to justify board actions to avert state and federal laws. I hope you are all voted out at the next election.
5/24/2023 16:05	Jaquelyn Kanyolo	Yes	Allendale Charter Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County Vote	I'm very disappointed in this vote and the direction this county is headed. If you truly believe in freedom, that also includes religious freedom and freedom from harassment and fear among our county's residents that are people of color. Your actions are extremely hypocritical.
5/24/2023 16:28	Gretel Miller	Yes	Holland City	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Divisive politics	Divisive politics are so unhealthy. I am ashamed of my county and choices to be extremely undemocratic, non-inclusive of everyone that lives here, and understanding of people's points of view that might be different than theirs. Let me tell you that I am going to be more active and I will be voting. Though I do not considered myself of Democrat I will be voting Democrat!
5/24/2023 17:33	Jane Stoepker	Yes	Grand Haven City	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional county	I am writing on opposition of your vote to make Grand Haven a constitutional county. Your vote is actually illegal. Your management of the board of commissioners is an embarrassment. Grand Haven is, and will remain, a city where all belong. I hope you can make adjustments to the way you bully your results and listen to those who are opposed to your comments and decisions. We can work together but it is difficult when the majority of the board doesn't have the skills to run a proper meeting and understand the law.
5/24/2023 22:22	Janelle Kassien	Yes	Tallmadge Charter Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County	I am a social worker writing to advocate for inclusive policy making that protects our community's most vulnerable populations. Funding local mental health agencies, supporting people of differing socio-economics and racial backgrounds, and helping our kids navigate our dangerous world. We need to support local business and make Ottawa County a place people want to visit and move to. Our founding fathers believed in separation of church and state and freedom of religion. Let's try to keep it that way. I understand public office is a difficult job and I applaud your willingness to help. Please ensure that you are hearing all points of view and removing your personal feelings when making decisions that impact the entire county. Thank you for your time and attention to these important matters.
5/25/2023 6:05	Katherine Angus	Yes	Spring Lake Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County Vote	I disapprove of the Committee's vote to make Ottawa County a "Constitutional County." The vote was against the wishes of the majority of the citizens of this county, as well as against a clear understanding of the Constitution of the United States of America. These decisions are unwanted political grandstanding at best, and at worst potentially put citizens here at risk from increased gun violence.
5/25/2023 7:40	Kimberly Noble	No		Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional county	As a Michigander, I wanted to share that I will not travel to your county after your ridiculous decision. I feel sorry for your constituents who do not agree with your decision either. Terrible move.
5/25/2023 9:39	Mike McCarty	Yes	Hudsonville City	Board of Commissioners Meeting	How do I get on your list?	Dear County Board: As a retired resident interested in democracy and good government, how do I keep abreast of upcoming issues before the Ottawa County Board? I was surprised to learn that 102 residents commented for five hours at a May 23 meeting about making Ottawa a "constitutional county." I also was surprised that the board voted 9-1 in favor of the "constitutional county" after the majority of comments were opposed. Earlier I was surprised to learn about the board's "secret meetings" cited in the Michigan Attorney General's report, along with the failure to post timely upcoming agendas. Given your lack of transparency, how can I learn about upcoming issues before the board? Is there a contact list? If so, what do I need to do to get on the list? Do I need to purchase a gun or a camouflage vest? Also: Please clarify what this "constitutional county" means. Does that mean the county sheriff or prosecutors can obey or enforce only the laws they like? Does this mean that other Michigan counties are "unconstitutional counties"? If I run a red light and an officer stops me, can I use the "constitutional county" defense, because a "red light" impinges on my freedom as intended by the founders and Ottawa County? Please let me know how I can get on your secret list for upcoming agendas. By the way, you should amend the new motto for Ottawa County. It should say, "Where freedom rings for some." Sincerely, Mike McCarty
5/25/2023 10:14	Thomas Kroll	No		Board of Commissioners Meeting	Feeling unsafe	We visit Ottawa County frequently and stay in the area often. We will no longer visit the area or spend any money in the county due to the actions of this board. We feel in contradicts with every thing we believe in.
5/25/2023 16:05	Eric Richardson	Yes	Park Township	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County	Hi, I tried to speak at the meeting this week but it was overbooked and I didn't get to. I just wanted to say that I'm a constitutional lawyer and teach at U-M Law School. There is nothing Constitutional about discriminating against members of our community, putting some constitutional provisions above others or many of the factors that were cited by Commissioners in their statements supporting the motion on making Ottawa County a constitutional county. All citizens must uphold the constitution but that doesn't limit our rights to have differences, including differences of opinion on religion, race, sexual orientation, gun ownership or a range of other topics cited in the meeting. The people of Ottawa County are overwhelmingly decent, moral and tolerant people. Please stop making up reasons to divide us and do your job of managing the County so we continue to be a beautiful place to live and work. Thank you. Respectfully, Eric Richardson

5/30/2023 8:01	Sara Shambarger	Yes	Spring Lake Village	Board of Commissioners Meeting	Constitutional County	I do not support the passing of the "Constitutional County"!!!!
5/31/2023 9:18	Larry Besqatowicz	No		Board of Commissioners Meeting	Extreme politics	We love the area and the people and have been planning to move there once we retire, but due to the board's extreme politics we will no longer be moving into Ottawa county. We will look for a more inclusive area on the west side of the state. Good luck.